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. 1939–1946:

- 1. ROMSA (Raffineria Olii Minerali Societa Anonima) of Fiume had attained by 1939 an annual production of more than 120,000 tens of processed products. The installation provided employment for about 2,000 persons, including engineers, technicians, specialists, and workmen. At that time ROMSA had a total storage capacity (steel bulk storage tanks) of 65,000 tens.
- 2. Allied bembardments during the war did not cause irreparable damage to the plant's facilities, with the exception of a few buildings and a substantial part of the storage tanks. However, at the time of the German collapse the condition of RCMSA installations was very poor. In addition to the bemb damage, RCMSA had lost the Edeleanu plant, removed by the Germans to Moggio Udinese, on the Udine-Tarvisio railway line. The other production facilities had almost ceased to function due to wear and tear, lack of proper maintenance and especially due to the damage caused by the prolonged processing of inferior or contaminated crude petroleum. By mid-1945, the capacity of the storage tanks did not exceed 15,000 tens. The conveyor systems between the plant and the port, and in the port itself were destroyed, as were the pumps and rail connections.
- 3. VUJA (Military Administration of the Yugoslav Army equivalent agency of AMO) has extended to ROMSA all possible aid to hasten the reconstruction and reactivation of the plant. At the beginning of 1946 the combined facilities were producing about 600 tons of processed products monthly. At that time the plant became a part of the nationalized entity Kombinat se Weftu, and the reconstruction work received additional impetus through the efforts of Yugoslav and Russian commissions and technicians, who obtained needed materials and funds from the Belgrade Government. During 1946 production rose first to 1000 and then to 1500 tons monthly, with a total of 10,000 tons of crude petroleum being processed.

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4. Yugoslav petroleum comes from the wells of Gojlo and Selnica, (Medjumurje region) and must be processed separately as each produces petroleum with different characteristics. Crude petroleum from Gojlo has varying characteristics and chemical content, which, on the average, is about as follows, before refining:

To 100 parts of crude petroleum:

- 10 parts gasoline
- 30 parts kerosene
- 18 parts gas-oil (gasolio)
- 2 parts waste
- hO parts fuel oil for heating plants and ship boilers

Crude petroleum from Selnica has a more stable chemical content and contains the following average quantities of the products indicated:

To 100 parts of crude petroleum:

- 25 parts gasoline
- 22 parts kerosene
- 13 parts gas-oil
- 3 parts waste
- 37 parts paraffin distillate from which is extracted paraffin and lubricating oil.

All processed products were sent to Yugoslavia. A portion of the low-grade oil was allocated to the Navy at Fiume.

During 1946 the factory was frequently inspected by an Italian-speaking Russian engineer who was regarded as much more competent than the Yugoslav inspectors and was considerate toward all personnel. Only on one occasion was the plant visited by Yugoslav technicians from Belgrade and these were on a research assignment for KZN.

25X1 B. Facilities

- The "Porto Petrolio", opposite the plant on the waterside, represented a part of the ROMSA facilities. The port was linked to the plant and to the railroad station by a rail connection, and was equipped with seven storage tanks with outlet points ranged along the railroad line and along the port embankment to provide for rapid transfer of petroleum products from tankcars to tankers, or vice versa.
 - a. Intermittent Refining Plant: Had been restored to working order and was to resume production about 10 January.
 - b. Continuous Refining Plant: In working order, though in poor condition because of serious deterioration of equipment. In particular, the decanting equipment should be re-equipped with a centrifugal system in order to eliminate frequent impurities which occur in the finished products. Valves are badly worn and it has not been possible to replace them.

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- c. Pipestill Plant: Was due to begin operating about the middle of January. Estimated production was to be 15 tons an hour, provided shortages of crude products did not develop.
- d. Cracking Plant: Was to begin operation about the end of January 19h7. This plant was in very poor condition, and even after completion of present repairs is not expected to regain its full efficiency. Its expected average production will be a maximum of thirteen to fourteen tons per hour.
- e. High Vacuum Plant: Is nearly ready for work, lacking only the completion of some seven percent of the reconstruction. Of the four high vacuum boilers, two are in full working order, and two are nearly ready. This plant effects primary distillation and reprocesses crude and residual matter which has already been processed at a lower temperature.
- f. Distillation Plant with Pre-Heaters: Four boilers of a bank of six, and two pre-heaters are in full working order. Improvements have been made on the equipment now operative to make up for the lack of the two boilers which cannot be repaired.
- g. Lubricants Division: In 1946 produced various types of cils from the refinement of UNRIA-supplied crude products. In December it commenced the refinement of paraffin distillate which renders oil for turbines. The activities of the Division are being steadily expanded.
- h. Grease Division: Suffered the heaviest damage, being total destroyed; at present it is in an advanced stage of reconstruction.
- 1. Paraffin Division: In working order. A large production is expected in view of the heavy demand for products of this type.
- j. Storage Tanks: Reconstruction has made good progress, and present capacity is in excess of 40,000 tons.
- k. Pumps and Conductors: The pumping station which effected the rapid transfer of petroleum products from tankers or tankears directly to the bulk storage tanks was heavily damaged. At present the pumping station has been replaced by two movable 8" pumps (working in series) with a central inteke and discharge point, with a total capacity of seventy tons per hour.
- 1. Leboratory: Very well equipped and in working order, being furnished with all apparatus necessary for the analysis of any product. The major part of the equipment is of German manufacture, and has been the property of ROMSA for a number of years. Among other pieces of equipment, the laboratory has the following: Two microscopes, one for micro-analysis and one for normal analysis; one refractometer, for oil analysis; one super-thermostat.

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C. Personnel

6. Administrative Director: Avv. Ursich
Technical Director: Ing. Benedict 25X1
Technical Vice-Director: Ing. Graf 25X1
Other Engineers: Kelich and Rustia 25X1

- 7. At present there are employed at ROMSA about ninety engineers, chemists, technicians, and administrative personnel, plus five hundred workmen. About 150 of these are specialists assigned to ROMSA from the Fiume shipyards, the torpedo factory and from the Building Co-operative, employed to accelerate the reconstruction work.
- 8. Of the three chemists formerly employed by ROMSA, two returned to Italy early this year, and there remained only Dr. Malle. There is a supervising engineer from KZN named Belan, and ten technical specialists. The Yugoslav authorities are much concerned about the departure of many Italian technicians, as there exists no possibility of replacing them at present.

D. Prospects and Plans for 1947:

- 9. The technicians of the factory are certain of being able to reach a capacity of 10,000 tons monthly by the middle of the year if deliveries of crude products keep pace with plant output. Yugoslav authorities are attributing great importance to ROMSA, and at present the Fiume plant is exceeding the production of all other refineries in Yugoslavia. In this connection source points out that frequent deliveries of gasoline have been sent to Osijek, which would indicate that the Osijek refinery is not in operation. Also, various pieces of equipment, including a fractionating device, have been transferred to ROMSA from the refinery of Smederevo, from which it appears that the latter installation is at least only partially active. Aside from these two refineries, there remain only the plant at Bosanski Brod (Standard) and at Caprag (Shell) and a number of small secondary plants used by the Germans, in the vicinity of the oil wells, to produce a low-grade distillation and inferior lubricants, all of which caused damage to machinery in which they were used.
- 10. With regard to the availability of crude petroleum, it is certain that the Yugoslav wells cannot supply to ROMSA more than 2000 tons per month, and therefore urgent analyses have been made of crude Albanian products with a view to the possibility of utilizing these sources. These analyses have indicated that such petroleum has a very high sulphur content (2.66%), which necessitates a lengthy refining process with lead chemicals (piombito sodico), and which even then cannot be guaranteed against damaging motors. The Central Direction of KZN awaited anxiously the result of these analyses of Albanian petroleum in the ROMSA laboratories, which leads to the belief that no other laboratory in Yugoslavia is equipped to undertake research of this type.
- 11. The ROMSA management has received instructions from KZN to acquire the neighboring area formorly the site of the "Compensum" plywood factory, which was destroyed by bombs. This area borders the ROMSA plant on the east. If this purchase is effected, it is planned that it will be utilized for the following installations; the shipping section, section for cleaning tanks and barrels, storage of reserve materials, deposit of waste products. In the area already occupied by ROMSA, new facilities are due to be installed, including hydrogenating equipment from the USSR. Especially active are the sections processing paraffin and lubricants. A three-story laboratory building is in the process of construction.

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